

Power Line Interference Workshop at ARRL Headquarters a Hit



Mike Martin, K3RFI, teaches the basics of tracking down power line noise.
[ARRL Photos]



This antenna on a van specially equipped by Martin makes tracking down power line noise a bit easier.



Some of the RFI "sniffing" gear inside the van.



NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 27, 2002--A two-day workshop at ARRL Headquarters on power-line interference turned out to be a great success on more than one level. The August 22-23 session, conducted by Mike Martin, K3RFI, of RFI Services of Maryland, not only attracted a better-than-average turnout, but participants were able to track down at least some of the sources of power line noise affecting W1AW. Most of those attending the session were involved with locating and dealing with power-line related interference issues.

"We're starting to get their attention," ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, said of the power companies. By hosting the workshop, the ARRL hoped to assist hams as well as the power companies to combat this longstanding problem. The course included hands-on field work and specific instruction on finding and fixing the noises that can plague Amateur Radio operators and other radio spectrum users. Participants went away with techniques on how to quickly determine which specific system hardware that is the source of the noise.

The FCC recently began taking a harder line toward alleged Part 15 violations involving power line interference to Amateur Radio operators. Martin's workshops are aimed at helping anyone involved with the electric power industry to find sources of power line noise--occasionally an ongoing and vexing concern for hams--and to help them

